

Message Text

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SUBJ: US GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: POLICY OBJECTIVES AND THE BUDGET
PROCESS: COMORIAN REPUBLIC

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INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

1. BECAUSE OF MY ABSENCE FROM POST ON R&R DURING A GOOD PART OF DECEMBER AND JANUARY, I AM SUBMITTING MY COMMENTS ON US GOALS AND OBJECTIVES (REFS A & B) BY TELEGRAM INSTEAD OF THE AIRGRAM REQUESTED BY REF B. I AM ALSO INCLUDING IN THIS MESSAGE THE STATEMENT ON GENERAL BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS REQUESTED REF C.

2. OUR GOALS AND OBJECTIVES IN THE COMOROS WILL BE PURSUED BY MEANS OF PERIODIC VISITS FROM AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO--FOUR A YEAR WOULD SEEM TO BE A GOOD NUMBER TO AIM FOR. OUR APPROACHES TO THE COMORIAN GOVERNMENT TO ENCOURAGE A NON-ALIGNED POSTURE AND AVOIDANCE OF CLOSE TIES WITH THE SOVIETS WILL BE EASIER TO MAKE WHEN WE HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO PROVIDE, OR AT LEAST TO OFFER, HUMANITARIAN AID.

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3. APPROXIMATELY \$2000 PER YEAR SHOULD BE ADDED TO EMBASSY ANTANANARIVO'S TRAVEL BUDGET TO COVER TRIPS TO THE COMOROS. AID SHOULD PLAN FOR THE CONTINGENCY OF A SMALL TITLE II PL-480 PROGRAM. USIS AND THE EMBASSY WILL USE ABOUT \$200 A YEAR TO MAIL DOCUMENT COVERING US FOREIGN POLICY TO THE COMORIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY. END INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW.

4. THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ARE KEYED TO THE HEADINGS
OF REF A.

I. ENCOURAGEMENT OF A NON-ALIGNED POSTURE. WHILE MY TWO TRIPS TO THE COMOROS IN 1977 WERE PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH DISASTER RELIEF AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, THEY ALSO PERMITTED ME TO APPRECIATE SOME ASPECTS OF THE PRESENT POLICY OF THE YOUNG REPUBLIC. BASICALLY, IT IS CONCERNED WITH ECONOMIC SURVIVAL, AND ITS FOREIGN RELATIONS ARE DICTATED BY THIS CONCERN. THEREFORE, IT HAS SHOWN MOST INTEREST IN RELATIONS WITH THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH IT CONSIDERS ARE MOST APT TO PROVIDE MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: THE ARAB COUNTRIES AND WESTERN EUROPE. IN THE NAME OF NON-ALIGNMENT IT HAS ALSO WELCOMED RELATIONS WITH THE USSR AND PEOPLES CHINA, BUT THE PRESENT CHIEF OF STATE, ALI SOILIH IS EXTREMELY WARY OF THE SOVIETS. RELATIONS WITH THE US WERE SOUGHT PRIMARILY FOR THE RESPECTABILITY CONFERRED AND BECAUSE THE COMORIAN GOVERNMENT BELIEVED IT WOULD MAKE THE CONSERVATIVE ARAB STATES BETTER DISPOSED TOWARD THE TINY ISLAND STATE.

UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES THE TASK OF ENCOURAGING A NON-ALIGNED POSTURE CAN BE CARRIED OUT BY DISCREET AND SYMPATHETIC DISCUSSIONS DURING PERIODIC VISITS FROM THIS EMBASSY. THE COMORIAN GOVERNMENT WILL NO DOUBT BE MORE CONFIDENTIAL

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RECEPTIVE TO THESE VISITS AND TO OUR WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT WHEN AND IF WE ARE ABLE TO HELP IT IN ITS ECONOMIC STRUGGLE.

II. PROVISION OF HUMANTARIAN ASSISTANCE, SO FAR WE HAVE CONTRIBUTED \$5000 DIRECTLY TO THE COMORIAN REPUBLIC FOR THE RELEIF OF VICTIMS OF A VOLCANO ERUPTION LAST APRIL; \$25,000 IN SELF-HELP FUNDS HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED FOR THE COMOROS; AND WE HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF A TITLE II PL-480 FOOD PROGRAM. I HOPE TO VISIT THE ISLANDS AGAIN SOON IN COMPANY OF A FFP OFFICER IN ORDER TO FOLLOW UP ON THE LATTER TWO PROGRAMS.

III. INCREASED SUPPORT FOR US POSITION IN INTERNATIONAL FORA. THIS IS SOMEWHAT MORE DIFFICULT TO DO IN VIEW OF OUR LACK OF REGULAR CONTACT. HOWEVER, WE PLAN TO USE ALL OPPORTUNITIES, INCLUDING THE OCCASIONAL VISITS OF COMORIAN OFFICIALS THROUGH ANTANANARIVO., TO PROMOTE SUPPORT FOR OUR POSITIONS. WE ARE REGULARLY SENDING BY MAIL TO THE COMORIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY FRENCH LANGUAGE DOCUMENTS ON US FOREIGN POLICY.

5. BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS. OUR NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH THE

COMOROS WILL NECESSITATE THE FOLLOWING INCREMENTS TO THE BUDGETS OF THE VARIOUS AGENCIES CONCERNED: STATE \$2000 A YEAR FOR TRAVEL TO THE COMOROS BY EMBASSY PERSONNEL; USIS \$200 FOR POSTAGE AND FREIGHT OF DOCUMENTS AND MATERIALS; AID \$25,000 IN SELF-HELP FUNDS AND AN UNDETERMINED AMOUNT FOR COMMODITIES, IF A PL-480 PROGRAM IS INSTITUTED. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE SELF-HELP PROGRAM COULD GROW LARGER WHILE THE PL-480 PROGRAM MIGHT NOT BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE COMORIANS, AS THEY HAVE SHOWN THEMSELVES EXTREMELY RETICENT TO ACCEPT FOOD FROM OTHER DONORS WHICH HAD ANY CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO IT. BARRETT

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